



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: December 10, 2020

Agenda Item: Black Bear Quota Adjustments

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background:

FWP proposes the following changes to black bear quotas:

Increase the Region 7 (BMU 700) fall black bear harvest quota from 8 to 12.

Regional indicators, including harvest, observation frequency and location, cub observation, property damage frequency and location, and livestock depredation, suggest that the Region 7 black bear numbers continue to grow and expand. The proposed change will help address increasing bear conflicts, maintain social tolerance of black bears across a mostly privately-owned landscape, and increase hunting opportunities.

Public Involvement Process and Results: Public comment will be accepted during the December commission meeting and through January 11, 2021, at 5 p.m.

Alternatives and Analysis: Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions, or no change. The department believes the available data indicates an expanding black bear population and that the proposed quota change would be consistent with population status. The commission may choose to alter the proposed quota.

Proposed Motion:

I move the commission vote to adopt for public comment the proposed quota change to BMU 700, with all other aspects of the 2021 black bear season unchanged except those influenced by routine calendar rotations.